

In the Abstract

A communication system having a proxy architecture is disclosed. The system includes a platform that provides performance enhancing functions. The platform includes a backbone connection apparatus that routes information within a communication system. The backbone connection apparatus receives backbone connection parameters from the platform and maintains the current parameters in one or more backbone connection profiles. The backbone connection apparatus routes packets of information throughout the communication system based on the backbone connection profile. The backbone connection apparatus supports the use of different backbone protocol for different types of backbone links. Further, in a configuration where multiple backbone links of different types exist, the backbone connection apparatus supports the use of a different backbone protocol for each type of link at the same time. The above arrangement has particular applicability to a bandwidth constrained communication system, such as a satellite network.